

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR SEPTEMBER 1948

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Marathon and southwestern Lincoln Counties, Wis.	1	3:10-7:35 a. m.			\$21,000	Electrical and wind.	Lightning struck and burned a large barn and contents 8 miles east of Wausau; killed 3 cows at Dancy, a horse in Marathon, and a cow in Scott; put 500 telephones out of service in Wausau. Wind blew down several power poles at Schofield.
Rhineland, Wis.	1	Early morning.				Electrical.	A radio station put out of service for several hours.
Florence, Wis.	1	do.			20,000	do.	A planing mill and warehouse struck by lightning and burned.
Valders, Wis.	1	Forenoon.		1		Wind.	Man killed when a high voltage wire was blown across wire fence he was repairing.
Southeastern Louisiana and Mississippi	3-4				800,000	Hurricane.	Crossed coast line a short distance west of Grand Isle, La., with lowest pressure 29.24 inches at 3 a. m., September 4, and highest wind from south-southeast, 63 m. p. h. at 2 a. m.; passed over sparsely settled areas; center reached New Orleans early the 4th, with lowest pressure 29.21 inches from 6:15 to 6:20 a. m., and highest winds 64 m. p. h. at Huey Long Bridge at 4:50 a. m., and 78 m. p. h. from north-northeast at Molsant Airport at 5:30 a. m. (the center of the hurricane passing over neither of these 2 points); continued with decreasing intensity, passing over Picayune, Purvis, and Hattiesburg, Miss., reaching Hattiesburg at 2 p. m. on the 4th when the lowest pressure was 29.67 inches, with highest winds 40 m. p. h. from northeast; thereafter it decreased steadily in intensity, but the circulation was maintained as it passed near Memphis, Tenn., and Cairo, Ill., reaching Lafayette, Ind., at 6 p. m. on the 6th. In section along Mississippi River below New Orleans, fall truck was inundated by heavy rains and high tides, and orange crop suffered considerable damage. In the region north of Lake Pontchartrain, fall bean crop destroyed by heavy rains and high winds; pecan and tung nut crops in this area and in southeastern Mississippi suffered considerable damage; possibly the heaviest damage to pecans. Sugarcane and corn blown down by high winds, aided by torrential rain in Terrebonne, La Fourche, Jefferson, and St. Charles Parishes. In Orleans Parish, including New Orleans, damage confined to small boats, signs, trees, and power and communications lines with damage estimated at \$100,000. Greatest damage occurred off Grand Isle, when oil drilling rigs and equipment in the Gulf of Mexico were demolished by heavy seas.
Alabama.	3-4				88,000	do.	Damage to property and crops by hurricane mentioned above.
Pensacola, Fla.	3-4				12,000	do.	Pile driver, privately owned, sunk at Naval Air Station. An extreme wind velocity of 44 m. p. h. from southeast at 8:05 a. m. on 4th.
Havana, Fla.	4	Early afternoon.	70	2	250,000	Tornado.	Storm cloud resembling a "giant ice cream cone," first struck 1½ miles south of Havana, then skipped to northwest portion of town. Destroyed 8 homes and 9 tobacco barns, and leveled trees and wire lines; no tobacco in barns destroyed. 12 persons hospitalized; no serious injuries. Storm apparently continued its north-northwestward course into Georgia.
Grady County (southwest and central), Ga.	4	1:15-2 p. m.	50-75	0	75,000	do.	One or more small tornadoes moved northward along earth's surface for several miles, lifting north of Whigham. Several different areas affected. Damage to pecans, peanuts, and other crops, \$18,000; to numerous homes and other buildings, \$55,000; to stored feedstuff \$1,500; to poultry, \$500. Numerous trees and power and telephone lines also blown down.
Fernandina, Fla.	4	2:51-3:04 p. m.		0	0	Waterspout and tornado.	Waterspout moved southward along beach for about 2 miles; part of course over unoccupied land. "Funnel" lifted and re-formed several times.
Northwood, Worth County, Iowa.	5	A. m.				Hail.	Hailstones of unusual size reported southwest of Northwood; one was 14 inches around longest distance and 12 inches around the shortest.
Milan (vicinity of), Minn.	5	P. m.			9,000	Electrical.	Some corn stripped, but hail so scattered that damage was not serious.
International Falls, Minn.	5	P. m.			6,000	Rain.	2 barns destroyed by lightning fire; some livestock and poultry perished.
South Carolina, central portion.	6	6 a. m.-2 p. m.		1	350,000	do.	Many basements flooded; secondary roads rutted in places; crops ready for harvest damaged.
McClave, Colo.	6	4 p. m.	14¼		750,000	Hail.	Heavy rains, ranging up to 10 inches in 6 hours, caused many wash-outs and beat down crops. A wash-out resulted in train being derailed near Blairs, killing 1 person, injuring another; approximately \$315,000 damage in the neighborhood. Some damage to bridges and roads in other areas, especially near Orangeburg and Newberry.
Morton County (Richfield to Elkhardt), Kans.	6	9-9:30 p. m.	1		12,000	do.	Hailstones some 9 inches in circumference destroyed alfalfa, maize, and corn crops, killed several thousand chickens and turkeys, injured livestock, broke windows, and damaged roofs of buildings and automobiles; \$12,000 damage to airplanes and buildings at airport.
Richmond, Va.	6	P. m.			1,000	Wind.	Local, over a strip 15 miles long. Near Richfield hail piled in drifts like snow; damaged windows, roofs, and maize.
Tidewater sections, Virginia.	6-7					Wind and high tides.	Large tent at fair grounds toppled; exhibits damaged.
McLeansboro, Ill.	8	4:50 p. m.	440		6,200	Wind, rain, and electrical.	Low sections of Norfolk and Portsmouth flooded; ferry service between the 2 cities interrupted. Sea wall at Virginia Beach damaged by heavy surf which knocked out several concrete breakwater slabs.
Baltimore, Md.	8	6:30 p. m.			10,000	Wind, rain, and thunderstorm.	Many trees damaged, a few uprooted. Several roofs damaged. A large barn burned by lightning fire. 2 people injured when car went out of control.
							Storm, described by residents of east and northeast Baltimore as a "violent twister," hit that part of city. Strong winds ripped off roofs, blew in windows, and uprooted trees. 1 large plate glass show window, estimated worth \$3,500, blown into highway. Considerable damage by heavy rain.

See footnote at end of table.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR SEPTEMBER 1948—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Goodwell (vicinity), Texas County, Okla.	8	9:30 p. m.				Hail and rain	Hail size of marbles to golf balls. Storm moved southeastward and caused considerable damage in spots to sorghum grains in fields.
Bloomsburg and vicinity, Pa.	9	Night			20,000	Electrical and wind	Lightning killed 10 farm animals and destroyed a barn. Trees 50 feet high and over a foot in diameter uprooted by high winds.
St. Augustine, Fla.	11	8 a. m.		0	0	Waterspout	Observed a short distance northeast of St. Augustine, moving northeastward out to sea.
Phoenix, Ariz.	11	5:10-7:50 p. m.			10,000	Wind and electrical	Local windstorm ripped off several roofs, and uprooted trees. 1 person injured when huge limb fell on auto, caving in top. Plate glass windows smashed by strong gusts. Many telephone and power lines put out of service by falling trees and branches. Pumping station tower collapsed after being struck by lightning.
Pinellas Point, Fla.	12			1		Electrical	Boy killed by lightning while playing on beach; 2 companions shocked also.
Seattle, Wash.	14-15				5,000	Wind	Maximum wind velocity of 36 m. p. h. at 5:56 p. m., at the City Weather Bureau Office, and gusts up to 47 m. p. h. at Boeing Field. A frail housing project apartment unroofed; trees uprooted with consequent damage to parked automobiles.
Washington, eastern counties.	14-15			1		Wind and dust	Duststorms eroded freshly planted grain in eastern wheat belt, especially in Douglas and Okanogan Counties; considerable damage to telephone and telegraph lines. Damage believed not heavy. 1 death at Colfax when dust blinded drivers of cars, resulting in collision.
Brown County, Wis.	15	5:45-6:30 a. m.				Electrical	Lightning knocked out power and light service in large part of De Pere; put county police radio transmitter at Green Bay out of service for several hours; and caused burning of historic church at New Franken.
Francis Creek, Wis.	15	A. m.			30,000	do.	Cheese company warehouse and 15 to 20 tons of cheese destroyed by lightning fire.
Beloit (2 miles east), Mitchell County, Kans.	18	5 p. m.	1		8,000	Wind	1 large barn and smaller buildings destroyed.
Twin Falls, Idaho	18	3:30 p. m.				Rain	Basements flooded; some damage to hydroelectric power plant at Shoshone Falls; damage to alfalfa and beans in vicinity. 1.84 inches of rain in 2 hours at Bureau of Entomology station.
Boston and vicinity, Mass.	18	4-5 p. m.				Electrical and wind	Lightning struck at many widely scattered points; shattered chimneys broke electric light and power wires, and felled trees. Many small craft driven ashore or overturned by high winds and seas.
Ohio, entire State	19	Intervals during day and evening.		2		Wind, rain, and electrical	Trees and wires damaged by wind and lightning. Roads flooded by heavy rains. 2 men killed by lightning on golf course at Akron. 4 houses damaged by falling trees at Celina. 2 barns destroyed by fire, apparently started by lightning. Tent blown down at fair grounds in Delaware, damaging merchandise on display.
St. Peter, Minn.	19	4:15 p. m.			45,000	Electrical	Several places struck by lightning; 1 building burned.
Janesville, Wis.	19-20	10:30 p. m.-12:45 a. m.			19,500	Electrical and rain	Upper 170 feet of WCLO-AM and WCLO-FM 281-foot radio tower, together with antennas, broke and fell to ground; estimated loss, \$15,000. A section of roof of store and apartment ripped off. Many telephone and electric wires broken by falling limbs and trees and several highways blocked; 1 injury. Damage to merchandise by rain, \$3,000.
South Bend, Ind.	20	3 a. m.			20,000	Wind and rain	Large tent blown down; contents damaged by rain.
Creston, Union County, Iowa.	20	1:50 p. m.				Wind	Heavy wind and rainstorm from west. Iowa Southern Utilities measured wind at 65 m. p. h. Heaviest damage suffered by Iowa Southern Utilities and Creston Mutual Telephone Company; lines ripped apart by winds and falling trees. Trees blocked nearly every street.
Iowa, southern portion	20	Afternoon and evening.				Wind and electrical	Strong winds occurred in connection with squall line that formed in central Iowa. At Burlington storm reached maximum intensity at 6 p. m., lifting roof off exhibit barn at Des Moines County fairgrounds and damaging other buildings. At Des Moines, 2 women stunned by lightning bolt. Numerous reports of wind damage to barns and small buildings in vicinity of Osceola.
Seaton, Ill.	20					Electrical	1 woman injured when her home was struck by lightning.
Homestead, Fla.	21			0	4,000	Tornado	Occurred in northeast sector of hurricane. Damage confined to destruction of farmhouse and tumbling 1½-ton truck along ground.
Scotts Bluff County, Nebr.	22	7-9 p. m.			520,000	Hail	Storm from northwest. 100 percent loss to standing beans in North Sunflower Community; 75 percent loss on windrowed and bunched beans in same area, some of which was caused by flooding. 10- to 80-percent loss on standing beans in upper Gering Valley. Probably a total of 80,000 bags of beans lost in county. Loss to beans, \$500,000; and to hay, mostly alfalfa, \$20,000.
Minneapolis, Ottawa County, Kans.	23	9:30 p. m.	13			do.	Path 12 to 14 miles long. Some hailstones an inch in diameter.
Saline County (northwestern part), Kans.	23-24	10 p. m.-2 a. m.			100,000	do.	Accompanied by torrential rain and high winds. Some hailstones as large as baseballs. Roofs and window glass severely damaged, and many small animals killed by hailstones.
Cuba and vicinity, Republic County, Kans.	24	3-5 a. m.	13			do.	Path 8 miles long. Some hailstones 1¼ inches in diameter. Many windows broken and roofs damaged.
Continental, Ariz.	26	Evening			6,500	Flash flood	Heavy rains, accompanying thunderstorm, brought flash flood down a canyon 7 miles south of Continental. 1 reinforced concrete bridge culvert completely washed out and destroyed. A 200-foot embankment washed out, and 500 square yards of asphaltic concrete pavement destroyed.

1 Miles instead of yards.